

FOREWORD

A conference on the Cohomology of Groups was held at Northwestern University during the week of March 18 to March 22, 1985. An impression of the breadth of topics considered can be gleaned from the following list of plenary (partially expository) lectures:

- The representation ring of a finite group (*David Benson*)
- Introduction to complexity of modules (*Jonathan Alperin*)
- Cyclic homology, loop spaces, and pseudo-isotopy (*Ralph Cohen*)
- Cohomology of the mapping class group of an orientable surface (*John Harer*)
- Representations of algebraic groups via cohomology of line bundles (*Henning Andersen*)
- Cohomology of algebraic and related groups (*James Humphreys*)
- Some applications of finite groups to stable homotopy and vice versa (*Nicholas Kuhn*)
- Cohomology of groups of arithmetic type (*Kenneth Brown*)
- Some new approaches to moduli spaces (*Ruth Charney*)

During the conference, we invited participants to submit original research papers concerning the cohomology of groups. The present proceedings constitute those papers which in the editors' judgement met their criteria of quality and relevance.

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